

ENVIRONMENTAL HEARINGS OFFICE

Minutes of Meeting February 9, 2010 9:00 a.m.

The February 9, 2010 meeting was called to order by Chair Andrea McNamara Doyle in the Boards' office in Lacey, Washington. Present were Chair Andrea McNamara Doyle, Board Members Bill Lynch and Kathy Mix and Administrative Appeals Judge Kay Brown, Administrative Manager Robyn Bryant, Hearings Coordinator Debbie Joblonski, and Administrative Secretary Janet Buechler. Minutes of the January 12, 2010 meetings were read and approved as corrected.

Handouts were distributed for review which included the pollution, shoreline, forest practice, hydraulic, and environmental and land use appeals filed, a brief summary of all cases that have closed and the Case Statistics Report.

Appellate Update

Chair Andrea McNamara Doyle reported that there was one possible superior court appeal received since the January 2010 meeting, however because of multiple issues listed in the appeal, it has been turned over to our attorney general for determination. In addition, a decision in the *Cox v. Ecology* (PCHB 08-077) Superior Court Appeal has been issued affirming the Board on the substantive issues and reversing on the default issue. A final order has not yet been entered in Superior Court.

Financial Update

Robyn Bryant reported on the current status of the Environmental Hearings Office budget. At present, there is a small surplus still in place due to the vacant judge position.

Robyn also stated that the Environmental Hearings Office is in the initial planning stages of being set up on the state's online travel voucher system. Robyn will attend an informational meeting and set up training for a later date for any staff that might be involved.

Andrea also reported that things are moving forward on the office move, but a determination is not expected in the near future. Supplemental budget proposals will not be released until after the next state revenue forecast is issued.

Reciprocal Agreement

Andrea reported that the current Reciprocal Agreement, which calls for certain adjudicatory agencies to share facilities in an emergency situation, is in the process of being revised and finalized.

Natural Resources Reform Group and other Legislation

Kathy Mix discussed the status of the Natural Resources Reform legislation. The Senate and House bills are still in the legislative process, as are the Growth Management Hearings Board bills, and are expected to continue through the legislature.

Andrea gave an update on several other bills of interest to the Environmental Hearings Office related to its processes.

Westlaw

Westlaw has announced some changes meant to improve its natural language search functions. They have offered demos and training to its customers and we will request an in-house training session with our Westlaw representative.

Miscellaneous

The Public Records Committee will be scheduling a meeting with all Environmental Hearings Office personnel to continue the ongoing process of using the Simply File system for saving e-mails. Prior to the meeting, any questions that need to be addressed should be submitted to Phyllis Macleod.

Janet announced that the Well Fed Well Read 2010 campaign to benefit the Thurston County Food Bank and the South Sound Reading Foundation will begin soon. It was agreed the office will participate again this year on a modified level.

Meeting adjourned.

Janet Buechler
Administrative Secretary